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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 21 January 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granić, addressed to you.

I would ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 21 January 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you and the distinguished members of the Security Council that the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) signed a joint declaration in Geneva on 19 January 1994, as the first step towards normalization of mutual relations.

What is emphasized in the aforesaid joint declaration is that the two parties are "guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the basic documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)". It is the firm understanding of my Government that henceforth both sides are to act strictly in accordance with the provisions contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act of CSCE, in particular the principle that international borders cannot and must not be changed by force. In this respect my Government considers the joint declaration a bilateral document which implies full and mutual respect for the internationally recognized borders of Croatia and the borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). While this does not necessarily constitute an act of formal mutual recognition, it is nevertheless a conditio sine qua non for the effective normalization and establishment of full diplomatic relations. My Government believes that full normalization is the ultimate goal and that the joint declaration sets both sides firmly on this course as envisaged not only by the European Union action plan, but by the relevant Security Council and General Assembly documents as well.

It is the view of the Croatian Government that the final documents of the CSCE Rome meeting, along with other relevant basic CSCE documents, is the foundation for a peaceful settlement of the crises on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Croatia emphasizes in particular the importance of section I, paragraph 1.1, of the Rome documents (S/26843, annex II), which states that the United Nations protected areas "should be peacefully reintegrated into the political and legal system of Croatia" and that "mutual recognition of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Croatia would be an essential element for stability in their relations and in the region as a whole".

My Government signed the joint declaration acting bona fides, and this document is not in any way directed against the non-participatory sides. The joint declaration should be considered an important step towards full implementation of the European Union action plan concerning the former Yugoslavia, and consistent with the peace initiative of the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman (S/26681).

The joint declaration should also open the way for the comprehensive achievement of a modus vivendi for the territories in Croatia under the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in accordance with the European Union action plan and in the spirit of Security Council resolution 871 (1993). The Croatian Government urges the Security Council to take action

in this direction and, by using the prospect of the joint declaration, to help to bring about the solution that shall meet the legitimate claims of Croatia on its territory and preserve the legitimate rights of the Serbian population in Croatia.

In signing the joint declaration, my Government has been guided by the principle that the establishment of stable relations between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is of utmost importance for peace and stability in the region. The Croatian Government is ready to take further necessary steps in this regard, in the spirit and in the framework of the existing Security Council resolutions, especially resolution 871 (1993).

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs